

**Town Manager's Office  
Town of Mansfield**

# Memo

To: Town Council  
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager  
CC: Town Employees  
Date: May 9, 2016  
Re: Town Manager's Report

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Below please find my report concerning various items of interest to the Town Council, the staff, and the community:

## **Council Business**

- *Annual Town Meeting* – The Town of Mansfield **Annual Town Meeting for Budget Consideration** will be held on May 10, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the auditorium of the Mansfield Middle School. Staff has taken the following steps to publicize the meeting:
  - Published a box ad in *The Chronicle*
  - Issued a press release to local media, which was also distributed via the QNotify and CodeRed systems
  - Posted meeting information on cable channel 191 and the Town's Facebook page
  - Erected signboards on town property in high traffic areas
  - Posted flyers in town buildings
  - Mailed the budget edition of the *Mansfield Minute* to every residence and business in town

All eligible voters are encouraged to attend; please see <http://www.mansfieldct.gov/budget> for more information about the Fiscal year 2016/17 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program.

- *Crumbling Foundations in Eastern CT* – In collaboration with the towns of Coventry, Tolland and Willington, we will hold an informational meeting at 6:30 PM on May 11, 2016 in the EO Smith School Auditorium to provide homeowners with an update regarding the work the state is doing to address this important issue. Lieutenant Governor Wyman is expected to attend, and staff from the state [Departments of Consumer Protection](#) and Insurance will make a presentation to be followed by a Q & A session. To ensure adequate notice, each of the four towns has sent a letter to every homeowner owning a home built between 1983-2003.
- *Legal Opinion on Non-registered Property Owners Right to Vote in Referenda* – At the Mayor's suggestion, I have asked the Town Attorney to prepare a legal opinion on this matter. Under the Town Charter and in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §7-6, US citizens who are 18 years of age or older and who own at least \$1,000 of assessed property in Mansfield are entitled to vote at Town Meeting. However, a referendum is not the same thing as a Town Meeting and the Mayor and I believe it is important to clarify this point. I should have a legal opinion to share with the Council at its regular meeting scheduled for May 23, 2016.
- *Region 19 Budget Referendum* – On Tuesday, May 3, 2016, Regional School District No. 19 held its referendum on its Proposed FY 2016/17 Budget. The budget passed with the following results:
  - Mansfield    233 Yes            127 No
  - Ashford      178 Yes            62 No
  - Willington   221 Yes            79 No
  - Total:        632 Yes            268 No

Also, I wish to inform you that a resident has complained that the Region failed to properly convene its district town meeting scheduled for the night of May 2, 2016. This meeting is part of the process to adopt the Region's FY 2016/17 Budget, which was moved to referendum on May 3, 2016. According to the Superintendent, the legal notice for both the May 2 Town Meeting and May 3, 2016 Referendum was accurate and proper, but the Board did not actually convene the District Town Meeting. The Region's attorney does not think, however, that this will invalidate the passage of the Region's budget at referendum. I have asked the Superintendent to provide a copy of the legal opinion when available.

- *Region 19/UConn Project* – The Regional School District No. 19 Building Committee is hosting a special event to both share and gather information from residents in the three member towns (Ashford, Mansfield & Willington) regarding the Region's consideration of building a new high school. The E.O. Smith High School New Facility Study Workshop #1 has been scheduled to take place in the Library Media Center on Thursday, June 9, 2016 from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Additional information about the event can be obtained at <http://www.eosmithproject.org/> by calling the Superintendent's Office at 860-487-1862.

### **Departmental Reports**

- *Town Manager's Office* – The Windham Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Awards Program on May 4, 2016. Mansfield officials and businesses were well-represented at the awards ceremony, with the following recipients:
  - Former Mayor Betsy Paterson received the *Dedicated Service Award* for her work as Mayor in Mansfield. Congratulations, Mayor Betsy!
  - The Mansfield Drive-In was named *Mansfield Business of the Year*. Congratulations to owners Michael and Jan Jungden!
  - The Dog Lane Café was named the Chamber's *Business of the Year*. Congratulations to Barry and Brian Jesserun, Steve Smith and the rest of the DLC team!

### **Major Projects and Initiatives**

- *Storrs Center*
  - *Mansfield Town Square Receives State-wide Recognition* - The Mansfield Town Square is a great place to meet friends, enjoy lunch, gather for a community celebration, or just relax. Years in the making, Mansfield residents recognize the Town Square as a wonderful asset to the community, and now the Square is receiving state-wide recognition. The Mansfield Downtown Partnership recently received the 2016 *Blue Ribbon Award for Best Specialty Project*, Community Revitalization from CREW-CT, the Connecticut chapter of CREW, a national organization dedicated to advancing the achievements of women in commercial real estate. On Monday, May 2, CT Main Street Center announced its 2016 Awards of Excellence winners. The Mansfield Town Square received the *Award of Excellence in Public Space*. The Partnership, the Town of Mansfield, UConn, Storrs Center master developer LeylandAlliance, and landscape architecture firm Kent + Frost will be recognized at the CT Main Street Center's Annual Awards Gala on Monday, June 6, 2016. The Awards Gala will be hosted by the Partnership, beginning with a gathering reception sponsored by UIL Holdings Corp. and presentation of the 2016 Awards of Excellence in the E.O. Smith High School auditorium. Following the ceremony, guests and the public are invited to enjoy a variety of activities in Storrs Center culminating with a musical performance on the Mansfield Town Square by the Funky Dawgz Brass Band.

### **Upcoming Events**

- *Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony* – Mansfield will observe Memorial Day on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. Our parade will begin at 9:00 AM from the intersection of Rt. 195 and Bassetts Bridge Road in Mansfield Center, and will travel North on 195, down Cemetery Road to the new Mansfield Center Cemetery. A short ceremony will be held at the cemetery. Mayor Paul Shaprio will give the welcoming remarks, Senator Mae Flexer will give the main address and Representative Gregory Haddad will present the Governor's Proclamation. Music will be provided by the Mansfield Middle School Band and the E.O. Smith Regional

High School Band. Three volleys will be fired and taps sounded in honors for the fallen. The units will then return to Bassetts Bridge Road. **All veterans and active duty personnel are invited to march at the head of the parade. We are honored to have our veterans and service personnel join us on Bassetts Bridge Road at 8:30 AM on Memorial Day.** In the event of inclement weather, an abbreviated ceremony will be held in the Mansfield Middle School Gymnasium at 9:00 AM.

- *Mansfield Pup Crawl – Spring Edition* – The Mansfield Downtown Partnership and the Friends of Mansfield Animal Shelter invite residents and visitors to the spring edition of the Mansfield Pup Crawl this Saturday, May 14. Participants and their four-legged friends will meet on the Town Square at 9:30 AM for a guided walk through Downtown Storrs. The walk will be approximately 1.7 miles and will conclude at the Town Square. This event is free and open to the public. Donations for the Friends of Mansfield Animal Shelter will be gratefully accepted. For more information, please visit [mansfieldct.gov/pupcrawl](http://mansfieldct.gov/pupcrawl).
- *Mansfield Senior Center Open House and Art Show* – The Mansfield Senior Center will hold its first annual Open House & Art Show at the Mansfield Senior & Wellness Center on Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Stop by and get to know the staff, meet some of the instructors and enjoy the talents of the Photography Club, Woodcarvers, Knitters & more. Giveaways and refreshments provided. For questions please call 860-487-9870.
- *Storrs Farmers Market* - Storrs Farmers Market began its 22nd season this past weekend. The Market is open every Saturday from 3:00 to 6:00 PM from now through Thanksgiving on the front lawn of the Mansfield Town Hall. Everything sold at the Market is grown and produced in Connecticut. In fact, the average distance from farm to market is just under 10 miles! For more information, please visit [storrsfarmersmarket.org](http://storrsfarmersmarket.org).

#### **Upcoming Meetings\***

- Annual Town Meeting, May 10, 2016, 7:00 PM, Mansfield Middle School Auditorium
- Special Town Council Meeting, May 10, 2016, immediately following Town Meeting, Mansfield Middle School Auditorium
- Historic District Commission, May 10, 2016, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Sustainability Committee, May 11, 2016, 5:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee, May 12, 2016, 6:30 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Personnel Committee, May 16, 2016, 5:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, May 16, 2016, 6:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Emergency Management Advisory Committee, May 17, 2016, 6:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committee on Committees, May 17, 2016, 6:30 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Open Space Preservation Committee, May 17, 2016, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, May 18, 2016, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Ordinance Development and Review Committee, May 23, 2016, 5:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, May 23, 2016, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

*\*Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*